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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 HUD-01 AGRE-00 /140 W

-----270227Z 055191 /62

R 261303Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8522
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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DEPT PASS CEQ, NOAA, AND EPA LONDON FOR IMCO MONTREAL FOR ICAO PARIS FOR UNESCO ROME FOR FODAG VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SENV. UNEP

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

SUBJ: UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL V - AN ASSESSMENT

REF: (A) NAIROBI 6404, (B) NAIROBI 6028, (C) NAIROBI 6528

1. UNEP'S FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL WITH 49 MEMBERS ATTENDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(ABSENTEES WERE URUGUAY, TANZANIA, SYRIA, TOGO, GRENADA, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CHAD, GUATEMALA, AND PERU) OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS THE FIRST FOUR YEARS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EXISTENCE AND TO POINT OUT THE DIRECTION THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD TAKE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WHICH WOULD COINCIDE WITH DR. TOLBA'S FIRST FULL TERM AS EXDIR. AS IN PAST, ALL DECISIONS WERE TAKEN BY CONSENSUS. HIGH ON THE

LIST OF PRIORITIES WAS THE NEED TO INDICATE THE LEVEL OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE AGENCY DURING THE FOUR YEAR PERIOD COINCIDING WITH THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN. THERE WAS EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE LEVEL OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY OF \$31 MILLION IN 1978 AND \$30 MILLION IN EACH OF THE THREE SUCCEED-ING YEARS. MORE DIFFICULT WAS THE TASK OF DECIDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE TARGET OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD SEEK TO FINANCE HIS ACTIVITIES. HE HOPED FOR GC ENDORSEMENT OF A LEVEL OF \$150 MILLION. WEOG COUNTRIES LED BY JAPAN, UK, CANADA, FRANCE AND US EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ORGANIZATION COULD NOT ABSORB THOSE AMOUNTS AND THAT \$130-130 MILLION MORE REALISTIC. COMPROMISE REACHED WAS FOR GC TO ENDORSE PROPOSED LEVELS OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND TO AGREE WITH INTENTION OF EXDIR TO SEEK \$150 MILLION IN VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO REVIEW -THUS MAKING IT EXDIR'S TARGET AND NOT GC'S. MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDING US MADE CLEAR, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HIS DEPUTY ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT FUNDS TO MEET HIGHER TARGET WOULD NOT BE COMING FROM THEM (REF A).

2. AS IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS, GC V DEVELOPED PLETHORA OF DECISIONS, SEVERAL OF THEM EXTENDING BREADTH OF UNEP'S ACTIVITIES IN INTEREST OF LDCS INCLUDING DECISIONS ON TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, OCCUPATIONSL ENVIRONMENT AND PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S EXPANSION TO ALL CROPS AND CHRONIC DISEASE PROBLEMS. DECISIONS ON EARTHWATCH, WHALES, OZONE LAYER AND DESERTIFICATION (REF B), HABITAT (REF C), AND UNHHSF, ENDANGERED SPECIES WERE ALL CONSISTENT WITH US POSITIONS. USDEL BELIEVES DECISIONS ON EARTHWATCH MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPARTURE FROM PAST, IE., IN PROVIDING RENEWED EMPHASIS ON IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM AS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM AND ON UNEP COMING UP WITH ASSESSMENTS. ON OZONE LAYER ONLY UK AND JAPANESE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD PROCEED SLOWLY. SOME 20 REPS SPOKE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR TBILISI LATER THIS YEAR, WITH MOST DECRYING LACK OF PREPARATION AND FACT GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT YET INFORMED OF AGENDA OR PROPOSED ACTION PLAN. HOST COUNTRY, USSR, DID NOT ENTER INTO DISCUSSION, AND IN FACT APPEARED TO BE DISASSOCIATING ITSELF COMPLETELY FROM SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE. RE DESERTIFICATION (REF B) EXDIR TOLBA, WHO ALSO DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE SYG, STATED HE WOULD REWRITE PLAN WITH EXTENSIVE CHANGES TO FOCUS ON COMBATTING DESERTIFICATION RATHER THAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALL SPEAKERS AGREED THAT EXISTING INSTITUTIONS ADEQUATE TO CARRY ON POST CONFERENCE WORK. DISCUSSION OF HABITAT (REF C) REVEALED WIDESPREAD URGING THAT 63RD ECOSOC AND 32ND GA TAKE FIRM DECISION ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. NO SUPPORT DEVELOPED FOR KENYAN POSITION THAT COUNCIL REACH CONSENSUS

ON UNEP SOLUTION AND NAIROBI LOCATION. RECORD OF DEBATES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO UNSYG SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE ULTIMATE DECISIONS RE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. ON UNHHSF COUNCIL, RATHER THAN RECOMMENDING \$50 MILLION TARGET TO GA AS SUGGESTED BY EXDIR TOLBA, RECOMMENDED THAT GA SET TARGET BEARING IN MIND EXDIR'S RECOMMENDED \$50 MILLION.

3. WEOG, UNDER STRONG LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN FAIRCLOUGH (UK), PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN BOT COMMITTEE I (PROGRAM) AND COMMITTEE II (FINANCE AND BUDGET). CANADIAN DELEGATION PLAYED A PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL ROLE ON COORDINATION ITEM AND IN WORKING GROUP ON DOCUMENTATION. THIS WORKING GROUP DEVELOPED AN IMPROVED DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM WICH SECRETARIAT WILL PUT IN USE FOR NEXT SESSION. USDEL NOTED AN INCREASING LDC AWARENESS OF VALUE OF IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT. LIBYA SPOKE UP FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION, AND AFRICAN AND OTHER DC DELS SPOKE ABOUT PRESERVING AND IMPROVING WORLD OCEANS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KENYAN DELEGATION URGED ACTIONS TO PREVENT THIRD WORLD FROM BEING USED AS "GUINEA PIGS" FOR UNTRIED CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS. SOVIETS APPROACHED US EARLY IN SESSION TO GET OUR COSPONSORSHIP ON ENMOD RESOLUTION, BUT IN GENERAL EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM ABOUT UNEP'S ACTIVITIES. CHINESE DEL TARGETED ITS POLITICAL ATTACK ON SOVIETS. CHINESE WERE VERY FRIENDLY TO USDEL AND HOSTED LUNCH FOR DELS FROM US, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND MEXICO. REACTION OF DELS FROM ALL GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK'S GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT UNIFORMLY POSITIVE. ONLY SOVIETS EXPRESSED VIEW IT "NOT HARD ENOUGH" ONSECRETARIAT.

- 4. EXDIR TOLBA CLEARLY IN CHARGE OF HIS SECRETARIAT AND MASTER OF DETAIL ABOUT HIS PROGRAM. AGAIN THIS YEAR HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN TAMPING DOWN POLTICAL ISSUES (E.G. LIBYANS DID NOT PRESS THEIR AMENDMENT TO HIS PAPER TO CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MATERIEL REMNANTS OF WAR). OBVIOUSLY, TOO, HE HAS CAPABILITY OF RALLYING DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUPPORT ON ISSUES HE CONSIDERS VITAL, E.G., TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. HIS SOMETIMES EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF UNEP'S ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS DIRECTED TO SPECIFIC DELEGATIONS AND EVEN INDIVIDUAL DELEGATION HEADS (SOVIETS, FINNISH AND PHILIPPINES) FREQUENTLY ASSUMED TONE OF PROFESSORIAL LECTURING OF ERRING STUDENTS.
- 5. NGO INFLUENCE WAS BOLSTERED BY PRESENCE DURING FIRST WEEK OF MEETING OF DR. MARGARET MEAD. OUR STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF UNEP/NGO RELATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR NAIROBI NGO CENTER WARMLY APPLAUDED, ESPECIALLY BY NGOS. LINDSTROM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NAIROB06574
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770189-0575

Format: TEL From: NAIROBI

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770514/aaaaamfc.tel

Line Count: 170 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: ba6a3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NAIROBI 6404, 77 NAIROBI 6028, 77 NAIROBI 6528

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2356578 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL V - AN ASSESSMENT

TAGS: SENV, KE, UNEP

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba6a3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009